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March 29, 2019

The Weekly Focus

Partisan Gap Remains On Climate Controls Despite GOP 'Innovation' Focus

The Senate's rejection of the Green New Deal (GND) resolution is underscoring a wide partisan gap on the scope of climate change policy, as Democrats are planning potentially sweeping measures whose enactment

could be years away, while Republicans continue to mostly resist any major policy that could be defined as a mandate.

Latest News

EPA Science Advisers Urge New PM NAAQS Panel, Possibly Derailing Review

EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), which advises the agency on how to set federal air standards, will urge the agency to reconstitute a specialized panel Trump officials disbanded to help review particulate matter (PM) limits, a move that would throw the administration's timeline for completing its review into disarray.

Judge Faults Implementation Of Landmark Montana Nutrient Variance

In a closely watched case, a federal judge has found that EPA improperly approved Montana's plan to allow dischargers 17 years to meet a controversial variance from strict water quality standards (WQS) for nutrients rather than requiring immediate compliance with the variance and working toward attainment of the WQS.

Bipartisan Senate Group Readies New Bill To Address PFAS Concerns

A bipartisan group of senators will soon unveil legislation to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, with Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) suggesting support for both technical assistance and an enforceable drinking water standard that takes into account the costs and challenges of sampling and mitigating the chemicals.

Two Democrats Float Cap & Dividend Bill As Route To Carbon Pricing

Key Democrats in both chambers are re-introducing "cap-and-dividend" legislation that would create a greenhouse gas permit program for "first sellers" of carbon-based fuels while rebating all revenues directly to the public, arguing their approach could be the most politically viable route to passing carbon pricing legislation.

Oregon Panel Poised To Weigh Changes To Landmark GHG Cap-&-Trade Bill

Oregon lawmakers are poised to consider recently unveiled amendments that would strengthen requirements for key sectors under a landmark bill to create a greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program that links to the California-Quebec system, though the measure still faces calls from the natural gas industry for more flexibility.

Daily Feed

EPA reportedly 'rushed' E15 waiver proposal

EPA justified its decision not to conduct an in-depth review of the plan by arguing the measure would not significantly boost use of 15 percent ethanol blends, according to one report.

States begin to adopt enforceable PFAS standards

Michigan is the latest state to announce plans to develop enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS in the absence of action by EPA.

Third court dismisses EPA science advisor policy suit

The judge agreed with EPA that the suit was not reviewable because it concerns "a matter committed to agency discretion without any meaningful standard of review."

Ewire: House GOP seeks to force Green New Deal vote

In today's Ewire: Republicans are focusing on the Green New Deal in an effort to brand the climate resolution as radical and "socialist."

Supreme Court to consider taking key CWA scope case

The justices are poised to decide whether to take up a Clean Water Act enforcement case that could provide a vehicle for setting a new standard on the water law's scope.

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